

Exhibit No. 11Date 3-18-11Bill No. HB2

March 17, 2011

Senate Finance and Claims Committee,

My name is Mari Dominguez. I am the Executive Director of Bridger Clinic in Bozeman and a registered Nurse. I'm writing to request that you restore all Family Planning funding originally included in the DPHHS budget for the next biennium.

Title X (ten) Clinics across Montana provided crucial safety net healthcare to 27,731 women and men in 2010. At Bridger Clinic we saw 5,617 patients last year. Fifty-one percent had no health insurance coverage.

Title X healthcare is cancer screenings, early diagnosis and treatment of common health problems, and help for women to plan and space pregnancies for the best possible outcomes.

In Bozeman's private medical sector, the fee range for an annual exam needed to get an effective prescription birth control method is \$150 to \$300. Retail pharmacy prices for these prescriptions range from \$35 to \$100 per month. These fees are unaffordable for low income wage earners who are struggling to cover basic housing, food and transportation costs.

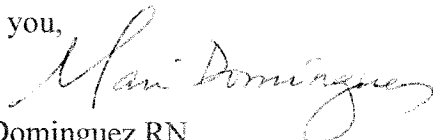
At Bridger Clinic, the conservative estimate of additional pregnancies and births to Medicaid eligible women without affordable contraception would be 1,068 in one year, at a cost of \$13,090,476 dollars to Medicaid. This is precisely why the funds to expand Medicaid eligibility for family planning services are so crucial to cost containment.

The cost for a year's supply of birth control at Bridger Clinic is \$176.

Abortion is not funded by Title X, and these services clearly reduce unintended pregnancy. According to the Guttmacher Institute, Montana's level of abortion would be 104% higher, and the level of teen pregnancy would be 88% higher in the absence of Title X services.¹

This cut would absolutely result in much higher financial and personal costs for thousands of Montanans, and place a far greater burden on the medical and social programs that remain. It will do nothing to reduce expenses for either the state or its' citizens, and so I urge you to vote to restore family planning funding.

Thank you,



Mari Dominguez RN
12630 Glenna Drive
Bozeman, MT 59718

1. <http://www.guttmacher.org/statecenter/title-X/MT.html>

I am a 31 year old, married, mother of three. Due to the care and education I received from The Bridger Clinic and Flathead Family Planning in my early adulthood, I have been able to successfully plan my pregnancies and work towards a fulfilling career, marriage, and life.

Since graduating from The University of Montana I have gone on to become an engaged citizen of this state.

- Served in the AmeriCorps to develop after school programming for undeserved teens in Montana communities.
- Worked as the director of a small non-profit org who's focus was substance abuse prevention and restorative youth justice.
- And gave back, by working as a Health Educator and Counselor, so others would have the same successes as I have had.

My husband and I share the duties of parenting by sacrificing to make sure we have one parent at home, focused on raising our children. We have struggled through the devastating costs of birthing premature twins, company lay-offs, and of higher education bills.

I, like many other Montana women, sit at a pivotal tipping point in my life. I am on the verge of becoming financially stable and successful. In this economic environment, an unplanned pregnancy would have a devastating effect on my children, career, and marriage.

Without the education and care I received from Montana Title X clinics, it is possible, I would have not had the opportunity to accomplish any of my past successes. The future, long-term, costs to our society in unplanned pregnancy, abortion, advanced stage cancer, sexually transmitted infection, and poverty, greatly outweigh the small cost of prevention through Title X funding. Before you vote, please think of all the women, families, and children who will not only be hurt, but devastated, if this funding is not reinstated. Thank you for your time!

Jennifer MacFarlane
3420 Magenta RD
Bozeman, MT 59718

03.16.2011

Senate Finance and Claims Committee:

I urge you to reinstate Title X funding for family planning and contraception into the state budget!

Research from the Guttmacher Institute shows that every \$1 spent on these services saves taxpayers \$3.74 in preventative care. In the same 2008 study, 59,100 women in Montana were in need of publicly supported contraceptive services and supplies. *Cutting* these services, however, will increase taxpayer costs, as well as increasing unwanted pregnancies and subsequent abortions/social services costs.

Additionally, losing affordable preventative cancer screenings for low-income patients will result in undiagnosed, life-threatening illness for patients who forego care because they just can't pay. Undiagnosed infection and STI's will create public health problems and long term consequences for patients unable to afford treatment. I have seen first-hand patients having to decide between food and rent or healthcare and prescription birth control in this struggling economy. Unfortunately, this can lead to unplanned pregnancy and undiagnosed health problems. I strongly believe these women and families should not have to choose between healthcare and responsibility or feeding and housing themselves.

I am an employee at Bridger Clinic, Inc, a Title X funded clinic. With our funding cut, we are facing the prospect of layoffs and shutting our clinic doors. This means more jobs will be lost in an already poor economy. I am also a patient here, and Bridger Clinic has been my primary health resource since 2006.

Please take action on behalf of low-income families in Montana, while saving taxpayers money with preventative care. Please remember the hardworking staff of these clinics also, who will be directly affected. Thank you for your careful consideration- many Montanans will be depending on it!

Respectfully,


Shannon Pugh

3510 Laredo Dr

Bozeman, MT 59718

To: The Senate Finance and Claims Committee

From: Cindy Ballew
48 Windmill Rd.
Lavina, MT 59046

I am in full support of funding family planning and Title X supported programs for Montana citizens. Cutting or eliminating programs that provide reduced cost health care to low income men and women and that assist individuals and families in preventing pregnancies and subsequent children that they are not ready, willing, or able to take care of is fiscally irresponsible and shows an upsetting lack of compassion and insight into the real issues of real people. In addition, the work that family planning clinics do every day reduces abortions and I believe they should be acknowledged and congratulated for that.

Montana family planning clinics encourage their thousands of patients to make informed and responsible decisions regarding their health and their behavior. Cutting family planning and Title X funding will not save our state money in the short run, let alone the long run, and refusing to accept federal Title X funds for Montana reflects a stubborn ideology that is not shared by most Montanans. I encourage the members of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee and all of the legislators to support the important efforts and proven results of family planning through informed and responsible voting that shows you are in tune with the needs of your constituents and Montana citizens and families.

March 18, 2011

Senate Finance and Claims Committee,

I have been a patient of Bridger Clinic for 10 years and an employee for 7½ years.

I first went to Bridger Clinic as a college student looking for affordable healthcare and contraception. Having met my now-husband while I was in college, we knew we wanted to start a family, but finishing school, maturing in our marriage, and achieving financial stability were things we felt every child deserved in a family.

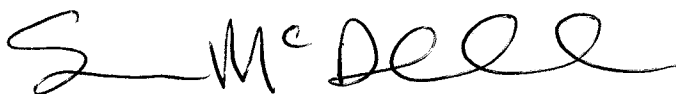
Three and a half years ago, my husband and I welcomed our first child without reservation and with every resource we could need. We were ready and gleefully excited to be parents. We look forward to welcoming another child into our family soon.

I can say without hesitation that my husband and I are attentive, loving, and devoted parents. We are employed, tax-paying, voting citizens who have used family planning to delay pregnancy until we were ready. We are paying it forward as contributing community members and thankful for everything we have today.

As an employee at Bridger Clinic, I see women trying to make the same responsible decisions about parenthood that my husband and I faced. Deciding to become a parent is the most important decision we can make. I urge you to reinstate family planning funding so clinics like Bridger Clinic can continue to foster healthy futures for the men and women we serve.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S McDowell', with a stylized, cursive script.

Stephanie McDowell
109 West Villard St
Bozeman, MT 59715

Hello,

I am an employee, a patient, and a supporter of the Bridger Clinic in Bozeman. I request that you please vote to reinstate funding for non-profit, family-planning clinics like Bridger Clinic, Planned Parenthoods of Montana, and the Northwest Community Health Clinic in Libby. These clinics are vital to the communities they serve, and this funding is absolutely crucial to these clinics.

If funding is cut, over 27,000 Montana men and women will lose healthcare services they will be unable to get elsewhere. Cutting these funds goes against common sense. It would lead to an increase in unplanned pregnancies; the Guttmacher Institute in 2008 estimated that these clinics helped prevent 5,300 unintended pregnancies that year in the state of Montana, and without them, the teen pregnancy rate would be 88% higher. Cutting funds to these clinics would increase the number of women seeking to terminate unintended pregnancies; the Guttmacher Institute in 2008 estimated that the abortion rate in Montana would have been 104% higher without Title X clinics. Finally, unintended pregnancies would cost the state much more in Medicaid-funded births and the subsequent subsidies required for low-income families.

Cutting access to affordable birth control for those who can't afford a pregnancy and want to plan responsibly for their families is bad for Montana. It threatens the livelihood of the workers of these clinics. The impact on Montanans would be huge. I urge you to vote to support funding for family planning.

Thank you,

Paige Newton
208 S. 3rd Ave.
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 570-9276